WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1.   A computer-implemented method for
automatically isolating suspect items in a manufacturing
environment, the method comprising:
        inputting one or more suspect item definitions
into a computer database;
        automatically detecting an identifier for an item
in a manufacturing or assembly process;
        comparing the detected item identifier with the
one or more suspect item definitions; and.
        if the detected item identifier falls within one
or more of the suspect item definitions, automatically
isolating the item in the manufacturing or assembly process.

2.   The method of claim 1 additionally comprising
displaying a location for the item.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the location
for the item is inferred.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of
isolating the item comprises physically removing the item
from the manufacturing or assembly process.

5.   The method of claim 1 additionally comprising
automatically modifying the manufacturing or assembly
process to bypass one or more suspect manufacturing or
assembly operations.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the suspect
item definition includes one or more item serial numbers.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the suspect item definition includes a manufacturing or assembly operation.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the suspect item definition includes a time or date range.

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the suspect item definition includes an adapter plate identifier.

10.   The method of claim 1 wherein the suspect item definition includes a sub-component identifier.

11.   The method of claim 1 additionally comprising communicating one or more suspect item definitions to a remote location outside of the manufacturing or assembly process.

12.   The method of claim 11 wherein the remote location is a remote manufacturing or assembly plant.

13.   A computer system for automatically isolating suspect items in a manufacturing environment, the system comprising one or more computers operably programmed and configured to:
    receive information including one or more suspect item definitions into a computer database;
    receive information including an identifier for an item in a manufacturing or assembly process;
    comparing the item identifier with the one or more suspect item definitions;
    if the detected item identifier falls within one or more of the suspect item definitions, output a signal to

a manufacturing or assembly station whereat the item is automatically isolated from manufacturing or assembly process.

5   14.   The system of claim 13 wherein the one or more computers are additionally programmed and configured to display a location for the item.

           15.   The system of claim 13 wherein the one or
10   more computers are additionally programmed and configured to infer the location of the item.

           16.   The system of claim 13 wherein the item is physically removed from the manufacturing or assembly
15   process.

           17.   The system of claim 13 wherein the one or more computers are additionally programmed and configured to modify the manufacturing or assembly process to bypass one
20   or more suspect manufacturing or assembly operations.

           18.   The system of claim 13 wherein the one or more computers are additionally programmed and configured to support a graphical user interface for inputting suspect
25   item definitions.

           19.   The system of claim 13 wherein the one or more computers are additionally programmed and configured to support a graphical user interface for displaying the
30   location of one or more suspect items falling within a suspect item definition.

20.	The system of claim 13 wherein the one or more computers are additionally programmed and configured to communicate one or more suspect item definitions to a remote computer located outside of the manufacturing or assembly process.